

REMARKS

Claims 79-82 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent 5,414,389) in view of Mouret (U.S. Patent 5,034,631).

Claim 78 recites "at least one first structure, with each said first structure comprising a permanently-on switch in parallel with one of the impedance devices".

The Examiner correctly indicates that Watanabe et al. do not teach a permanently-on switch in parallel with an impedance device. However, the Examiner argues that Mouret teaches the use of a permanently-on switch by disclosing "a transistor/switch Q5 is set to be permanently on (See column 4, lines 50-55)."

Contrary to the Examiner's argument, Mouret does not teach that transistor Q5 is set to be permanently on. Rather, Mouret expressly teaches that when input A1 is at a low state, "transistors Q4 and Q5 are blocked". (Mouret, Col. 4, lines 14-20.) Mouret further teaches that when input A1 is at a high state, "transistor Q5 is conductive". (Mouret, Col. 5, lines 8-12.) Because Mouret teaches that transistor Q5 switches between a blocked and conductive state in response to the input A1, Mouret fails to teach that transistor Q5 is permanently-on. Because Mouret fails to teach a permanently-on switch, Mouret fails to teach "a permanently-on switch in parallel with one of the impedance devices" as recited by Claim 78. For this reason, Claim 78 is allowable over Watanabe et al. in view of Mouret.

Claims 79-82, which depend from Claim 78, are allowable over Watanabe et al. in view of Mouret for at least the same reasons as Claim 78.

The Examiner has provided objections to Claim 72. However, the Applicant has addressed these objections in

amendments made the previous office action response filed on August 4, 2006.

The Applicant notes that Claims 83-85 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and that these claims would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, because the Applicant believes that the base claim is allowable (for reasons stated above), the Applicant is not amending Claims 83-85 at this time.

CONCLUSION

Claims 37-113 are pending in the present application. Because the Applicants believe that all rejections have been overcome, the Applicants request the issuance of a Notice of Allowability for Claims 37-113. If there are any questions, please telephone the undersigned at (925) 895-3545 to expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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